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30 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Foreign Documents Division, OO

SUBJECT: Review of Communist Theoretical Journals

REFERENCES: (a) Memorandum, dated 18 January 1960, from PP/C/PROP, for you, subject "Communist Journals of Doctrine; Request for Analysis";  
(b) Your memorandum, dated 7 March 1960, for PP/C/PROP, above subject.

1. This memorandum summarizes comments on the first issue of subject publications -- as invited in ref. 'b' -- obtained from several elements within the Covert Action (formerly: PP) Staff and from other interested offices in the DD/P area. It also contains requests for distribution (para 8 below) and refers to the question of costs (para 9).

2. General Comments. Over-all reaction of the DD/P elements queried has been very positive: everybody agrees that subject REVIEW can fill a major gap in the informational material available to our analysts and operators and welcomes the new publication. It is also understood that the first issue of any periodical publication is never identical with the final product: editors and contributors need the experience of several issues before a permanent pattern can emerge. In subject REVIEW, in particular, comparison between the latest issues of Communist journals under review and previous publications (see para 3 b & c, ref. 'a') will become fully effective only in subsequent issues. We consider the comments and suggestions presented in this memorandum therefore not as final, but shall forward to you from time to time further comments as well as specific suggestions or requests for changes, increases or decreases in the coverage of certain subjects, as changes in the general situation or in our requirements occur. We are also prepared to answer any questions which members of your Division may wish to discuss with us.

3. Selection of Communist Journals. We believe that, on the whole, the journals chosen for the first issue of your REVIEW give a reasonable cross section of current Communist doctrinal thought and of its application. The following suggestions have been made, though:

- a. Adding the Soviet and Chinese journals on International Affairs -- if this would add significantly to the coverage of the themes listed in para 4, ref. 'a' (especially since your summary of HUNG CH'I, p. 17 of the REVIEW, notes: "there is only an occasional article on foreign affairs");
- b. Adding the Soviet publication PARTY LIFE;

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- c. Would it be useful to add the North Korean CP journal, in view of the fact that North Korea somehow vacillates between the Soviet and Chinese positions (as noted, for instance, in [ ] report RS 38)?;
- d. The British CP journal MARXISM TODAY has also been recommended: we are not particularly interested in the British CP as a party, but you might consider including it, if it carries articles of international significance.

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4. Organization of Contents. The over-all division of the material in # 1 of the REVIEW is logical. One might raise the question whether, after the very useful "World Summary" on pp. 1 - 2, separate "Area Summaries" on pp. 16, 28 and 35 are absolutely necessary. Treatment of each journal should consist of two clearly separated portions, (a) a summary, factual, using more or less the Communists' own words, and (b) analytical comments. Verbatim quotation of significant passages -- especially if they can illustrate a controversy or a view deviating from the general party line -- is very desirable. Where important texts cannot be treated in the necessary length, it might be useful to refer the reader to any other publication (FDD summary, [ ] report, Review of the Soviet Press, or the like) which carries the full text or a more extensive summary of the contents in English. Items which have also been carried in mass media and received publicity in the U.S. press -- e.g. "Tasks of Party Propaganda in Present Conditions" (p. 9, REVIEW) -- could be omitted or merely enumerated by title.

5. Language. The REVIEW as a whole impresses us as well written and carefully edited. We have only a few suggestions to offer, intended to "tighten" the language of the publication, to eliminate subjectively colored terms or phrases which could be misunderstood for any other reason -- just because we hope that your REVIEW will become a very useful tool for a large number of our co-workers, with widely different degrees of familiarity with the substance and language of Communism. We have noted in particular --

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- a. "over-all pattern apparent in the international line" (p. 1, para 2) -- this would seem to imply that there is one clearly identified line, following the same pattern everywhere: but the REVIEW elsewhere and other recent reports, including [ ] RS 38, show that there are significant differences.
- b. ".... revisionism, agreement on which is fairly world-wide in the journals ...." -- while this may be literally true for the issues of the journals reviewed here, it is known that the Chinese attitude towards Yugoslavia, for instance, is far more aggressive than any recent Soviet statements: the phrase seems therefore unnecessarily sweeping in its implications.

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- c. "Asian Influences" (p. 2, sub-heading) -- why not call it "Chinese Communist" or "Chicom" influences? The rest of Asia has nothing to do with the matter discussed under that heading.
- d. The statement "Notably absent for the first time in several issues of the World Marxist Review ...." (p. 5, last para) is challenged by an analyst who notes that there were also no such articles in the August, October or November issues of the same publication.
- e. "PKI Theoretically Unsophisticated" (p. 24, sub-heading) -- strikes us again as too sweeping: compared with other Communist Parties, the PKI may indeed be called ideologically immature or unsophisticated. However, compared with the other political parties of Indonesia, it appears to be not only organizationally successful, but also ideologically relatively far developed. Here, as in other cases, more factual sub-headings or characterizations, devoid of any too far-reaching implications, would seem in order.

6. Emphasis in Topics. Supplementing the points made in ref. 'a' after reading your first issue, we note:

- a. We are especially interested in articles concerning Communist tactics, whether in organization or in propaganda, concerning Communist parties as well as front organizations, especially articles which can be interpreted as directives, even if they are not formally characterized as such (e.g. the articles on Peaceful Co-Existence and related topics which appeared after Khrushchev's visit to the U.S. in PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM);
- b. On the other hand, we have only limited interest in articles of a purely philosophical, literary or similar character which are not related to one of the major policy or propaganda objectives of international Communism: if such an article is considered important by your analysts, bare mention will suffice for our purposes.
- c. Readers' wishes concerning the over-all length of the REVIEW naturally vary: the analyst who is only interested in getting his bearings on the general development of the party line prefers maximum conciseness and brevity, while the operator concerned with the particulars of a given country or theme is interested in detailed treatment, adequate quotations, and the like. We must therefore leave it to your editorial skills to strike the best possible balance between these different interests.

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7. Compatibility with the Needs of other Customers. The above comments and suggestions must not be interpreted as meaning that we expect you to fashion subject REVIEW exclusively according to our specialized requirements, neglecting the interests of other customers. We have noted in para 3, ref. 'a' that we expect other elements in DD/I and possibly other government agencies, such as State and USIA, also to be interested in your publication; this thought has been confirmed in a telephone conversation by [redacted]. If you, therefore, want to include material not needed by us, to satisfy the legitimate interests of other recipients, this will meet with our full approval: only if you want to omit materials or change the over-all character of the treatment which we have requested, we shall appreciate hearing from you about it beforehand.

8. Distribution. The intense interest in subject REVIEW, shown by DD/P elements, is best illustrated by the fact that we have been asked thus far for

90 copies for headquarters distribution, plus

154 copies for field distribution.

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The latter should omit the present cover sheet -- which, we suggest, might be replaced by a sterile page, simply stating "REVIEW OF COMMUNIST THEORETICAL JOURNALS", number and month, without mentioning CIA, the U.S. Government or Washington. Please have your publication branch contact [redacted], for further details of distribution.

9. Costs. As noted in para 5, ref. 'a' and reiterated orally by undersigned in the meeting with several officers of your Division on 1 February 1960, you are requested to notify this office in advance, if your compliance with our request for subject REVIEW should result in any additional cost which you could not cover within your budget and to which you would want us to contribute. We are, needless to say, not eager to incur any additional expenses, but we would make, if necessary, an effort in this direction -- but this would involve approval by the Chief, Covert Action Staff and the usual administrative procedure.

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[redacted]  
Propaganda Division  
Covert Action Staff

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cc: C [redacted]

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